GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1659
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
WORLD BANK REPORT ON NH PROJECTS
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal;Patil Shri Pratik Prakashbapu

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has expressed concern over construction works of National Highways / State Highways and stopped funding of some projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor, project−wise;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the upgradation work on Lucknow-Muzaffarnagar NH is going at very slow pace;

(e) If so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken in this regard alongwith the time frame fixed for its completion?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) to (b) World Bank has expressed concern over the slow progress of five packages (WB-5, WB-9 to WB-12) out of 12 packages of Lucknow − Muzaffarpur National Highways Project (LMNHP) on NH-28. However, World Bank has not stopped funding the projects.

(c) to (f) For expediting the progress of work of five slow progressing packages, following steps have been taken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):

(i) Supplementary agreements for five poorly performing contracts of WB-5, 9, 10, 11 and 12 have been signed with the concerned Contractor fixing the targets for next six months.

(ii) Show cause notice has been issued to the Supervision Consultants for five poorly performing project packages.

(iii) All the four Project Directors of LMNHP have been asked to ensure works site safety.

The physical progress in package WB-1 to 4 and 6 to 8 is between 30% to 60% whereas the physical progress in packages WB-5, 9 to 12 is between 16% to 20%. The reasons for delay are as under:-

(i) Initial delay in pre-construction activities such as land acquisition, cutting of trees and shifting of utilities which are coordinated through the State Government.

(ii) The projects could not take off in initial stages due to heavy rains / flood experienced in the region during 2006, resulting in submergence of borrow area required for embankment construction.

(iii) Poor mobilization / planning of resources by the Contractors.

(iv) Poor performance and cash flow problem with the Contractors.

All the 12 packages are scheduled for completion by December, 2009.